

REMARKS

Claims 24-28 are presently pending in this application. These claims are the same claims as claims 17-21 cancelled by Examiner's Amendment in the parent application in order to place the parent application in condition for allowance.

The above amendments are being made to cross-reference the parent application, the grandparent application, the great-grandparent application, and the great-great-grandparent application, delete the claims which were elected/prosecuted in the parent application, and to conform the title to the invention presently being claimed in this application. No new matter has been added by these amendments, and entry and an early of examination are respectfully requested.

In the parent application, the Examiner asserted that Fischell (U.S. Patent No. 5,423,846) and Rizik (U.S. Patent No. 5,628,761) each disclose a device including a head having a gripping surface that is capable of gripping the inner surface of a catheter and dislodging the catheter from a subcutaneous location. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's interpretation of both Fischell and Rizik as they pertain to claims 24-28.

Claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, a device for removing a catheter assembly having a catheter stabilizing device from a subcutaneous location in a patient. The device includes a handle having a proximal end and a distal end. A head is attached to the distal end of the handle. The head has an external gripping surface. The head is sized for insertion into a lumen of a catheter assembly having a tissue ingrowth cuff for gripping an internal surface of the catheter assembly within the cuff and dislodging the cuff from surrounding tissue. Underlining added for emphasis.

Fischell discloses a an auger catheter system for cutting a passage through a total occlusion in a blood vessel to enable a balloon catheter to be inserted into the passage for balloon angioplasty on the vessel. Specifically, Fischell discloses a Dottering Auger Catheter (DAC) 20 and a centering catheter 40. The DAC 20 includes a proximal steel tube 22 and a self-tapping screw 30. After the DAC 20 is inserted into a blood vessel and engages an occlusion, the screw 30 is advanced into the occlusion by rotation. After the screw 30 extends through the occlusion,

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the DAC 20 is removed and a balloon angioplasty procedure is performed. See Column 5, lines 1-37.

Rizik discloses a device for forming a passage in a total occlusion in a blood vessel. A catheter 41 is advanced to an occlusion 33 in a blood vessel. A circumferential balloon 45 secures and stabilizes the catheter 41 generally centrally in the blood vessel. A rotating burr 59 is deployed from the catheter 41 to form a passage in the occlusion.

Both Fischell and Rizik fail to disclose or suggest a device having a gripping head with an external gripping surface for gripping an internal surface of a catheter lumen for dislodging the catheter lumen from a secured location under the skin of the patient. Fischell and Rizik only disclose devices for forming passages in occlusions in a blood vessel. Not only are the claimed features of claim 24, as well as claims 25-28, which all depend from claim 24, not disclosed or suggested by either Fischell or Rizik, but there is no teaching in any of the prior art of record to suggest providing wither Fischell or Rizik with these features.

For the above reasons, consideration and allowance of claims 24-28 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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